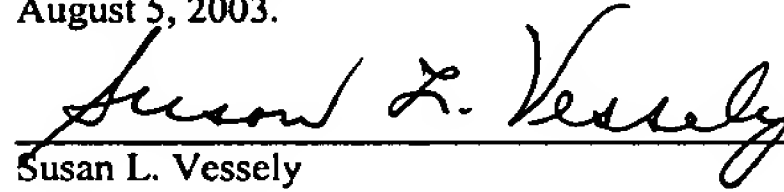


Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 5, 2003.


Susan L. Vessely



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PATENT

Our Case No. 970/045

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)

Robert D. Brand)

Serial No.: 09/377,120)

Filed: August 19, 1999)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
RETAINING A FLITCH FOR CUTTING)

) Group Art Unit 3725

) Examiner: Waymond D. Bray

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LETTER TO THE OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto are further red-lined corrections to Fig. 22 in response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings. In the further corrected Fig. 22, arrows have been placed on the lead lines 282 and 286 to more clearly indicate the table segment 282 and the flitch table 286, which are the major elements of the modular assembly 280. In the prior amendment of Fig. 22, the cross-sections of the table segment 282 and flitch table element 286 were separately cross-hatched and an additional element number 296 and lead line were added to indicate the tongue on the right side of the table segment 282, and an additional element number 298 and lead line have been added to indicate the groove in the left side of the flitch table 286. No new matter has been added.

In addition, the specification has been amended at page 26. Applicant respectfully submits that the drawing and specification, as amended, clearly indicate that the grooves 298 are formed along inside walls of the flitch table element 286, as shown in Fig. 22.

Applicant respectfully requests that the corrections receive favorably consideration and that drawings with these corrections be accepted.

Respectfully submitted,



David H. Badger
Attorney Reg. No. 22,597

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